

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 14**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2005-075**  
**DATE: June 21, 2005 Time: 4:30 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven has issued an emergency declaration for severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, hail and high winds throughout the state and for continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin, beginning April 9 and continuing.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** The North Dakota Crop and Weather report for the week ending June 19 indicated farmers were unable to make any significant planting progress, which may result in prevented plantings. Leaf diseases in small grain fields were also being reported in some areas of the state, according to the report, which is issued by North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service (NDASS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

**Benson County**

On June 20, the County Emergency Manager reported high winds downed 24 miles of the Great River Energy power lines as well as several Central Power Electric Cooperative and Northern Plains Electric Cooperative lines. Several barns were decimated and trees uprooted, blocking public and private roads. A grain elevator reported two large grain bins and one grain dryer had toppled over. A conveyor and other bins were also damaged.

The City of Minnewaukan has reported several paved streets with extensive damages due to the high water tables, which are creating a driving hazard.

**Cavalier County**

The USDA County Emergency Board (CEB) indicated high winds in excess of 85 miles per hour (mph) created a widespread, extensive damage path on June 19. Many farmsteads lost steel bins and pole barns. Grain bins were spread across fields. Initial reports showed 25 farm buildings and service dwellings, 500 farm structures, 200 pieces of farm machinery and equipment and three grain elevators sustained damage. The USDA office roof was blown off.

### **Griggs County**

The County Emergency Manager reported moderate to severe damage has occurred on county roads as a result of heavy rains, overland flooding and standing water.

### **Pierce County**

High winds, reportedly in excess of 100 mph downed several high voltage power lines on June 19. Northern Plains Electric Cooperative reported three poles snapped. Great Plains Energy reported 5.5 miles of power lines down as well. An electrical substation located five miles south of Balta received major damage.

### **Pembina County**

On June 20, the County Emergency Manager reported the power has been restored in Neche and Walhalla. Some rural residents are still without power due to downed power lines. Ottertail Power Company is continuing efforts to restore power.

### **Ramsey County**

Power has been restored in the City of Starkweather, which experienced substantial damage during the June 19 storm.

On June 18, the USDA CEB reported that high winds since June 1 have resulted in damage to farmstead trees and pole barns with three grain elevators receiving extensive damages.

### **Ransom County**

On June 19, heavy rains caused street flooding in the Lisbon area. Golf-ball size hail was reported northwest of Lisbon and a Quonset building northwest of Fort Ransom that contained several vehicles was destroyed as a result of strong winds or a possible tornado. In the community of Sheldon, winds reported in excess of 50 mph caused damage to trees and power outages. The southwestern section of the county received three to four inches of rain.

The USDA CEB indicated excessive rains inundating the area since June 1 have resulted in more than 11,312 acres of prevented planted crops and drowned crops. Estimates are 3,912 acres of cropland will not be planted and 7,388 acres damaged due to flooding and standing water in addition to 250 acres that have been impacted by erosion and/or gully washing effects. Several farm buildings have also received damage.

### **Sargent County**

On June 20, the USDA CEB met to review damages caused by excessive rain, flooding, high winds and hail that has pounded the area since June 1, resulting in more than 104,932 acres of prevented planted crops and drowned crops. Estimates are 21,100 acres of cropland will not be planted and 83,832 acres damaged due to flooding and standing water. In addition, pastures located in low ground areas are expected to be a 100 percent total loss. Several farm dwellings and service buildings have received damage.

The County Emergency Manager reported 14 roadway areas are underwater. Ground saturation continues to cause overland flooding.

### **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**

The Tribal Emergency Manager reports several roads and culverts have been washed. One bridge was washed away and has since been repaired.

### **Walsh County**

On June 19, high winds of 40 to 50 mph resulted in temporary power outages in the communities of Adams, Fairdale, and Edinburg. Road crews closed an additional four road locations including County Road 15 between I-29 and Warsaw.

### **Williams County**

Minor damage on June 21, as a result of the recent storm activity, consisted of broken tree limbs and uprooted trees in and around Williston. The city of Trenton reported minor tree damage and one grain bin and shed moved off their foundations.

### **River Statements**

On June 21, the Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the National Weather Service (NWS) stated the flood warning for the lower Souris River at Westhope has been cancelled. However, the flood warnings for the lower James River at Ludden Dam, the Red River at Wahpeton, Fargo, East Grand Forks, Oslo, Drayton and Pembina, the Sheyenne River at West Fargo and Harwood, the Maple River at Mapleton, and the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie remain in effect.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	10.24 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 21	Crest @ 10.3 feet on June 23
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	26.41 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 21	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	38.6 feet @ 7:45 a.m. June 21	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Oslo	28 feet	35.5 feet @ 7:15 a.m. June 21	Cresting
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	36.52 feet @ 8:00 p.m. June 21	Crest @ 36.7 feet on June 22
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	41.62 feet @ 5:00 a.m. June 21	Crest @ 43.2 feet on June 23
Maple River at Mapleton	902 feet	902.88 feet @ 7:30 a.m. June 20	Crested, river trend is falling
Sheyenne River at West Fargo	16.5 feet	15.79 feet @ 5:45 a.m. June 21	Crested, river trend is falling
Sheyenne River at Harwood	884 feet	885.22 feet @ 4:00 a.m. June 21	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	12.79 feet @ 9:00 a.m. June 21	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Oakes	93 feet	93.89 feet @ 5:30 a.m. June 21	Crested, river trend is falling
Wild Rice River at Abercrombie	10 feet	7.73 feet @ 6:45 a.m. June 21	Crest @ 12.7 feet on June 23

#### 4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

#### 5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Local amateur radio personnel are assisting with communications in Benson County.

Members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) participated in a conference call on June 20 to update its member agencies on each group's assistance efforts and identify additional needs.

#### 6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven visited Cavalier and Grand Forks Counties on June 21 to tour the local communities and assess damages that resulted from recent severe storm activity. Following the tours, the Governor met with local officials in Langdon and Northwood.

##### Cavalier County

On June 21, County Commissioners declared an emergency as a result of the storm impact.

**Pembina County**

On June 20, the County Emergency Manager issued a press release requesting volunteer assistance with debris removal efforts in Walhalla. The press release also informed people needing assistance to contact the county Social Services.

**Sargent County**

On June 21, County Commissioners declared an emergency as a result of the storm impact.

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**

On June 21, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council declared an emergency in response to recent storm impact.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED**: No change from previous reports.
8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE**: Local power companies and telephone cooperatives are repairing their infrastructure.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION**: The NWS lists quantitative precipitation forecasts on its website: [www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml](http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml).

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Susan Reinertson, Director  
N.D. Division of Homeland Security